

# SESSION 8 GREAT PARKS AND GREEN SPACES CREATING HEALTHY & LIVEABLE CITIES

## IFPRA AND WORLD URBAN PARKS



DIGBY WHYTE, CEO, IFPRA

# Ifpra - International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration

Established 1957 to promote international and national cooperation in the advancement of parks, recreation, cultural and leisure services



❖Comprises park and recreation associations, organisations and professionals from over 40 countries.



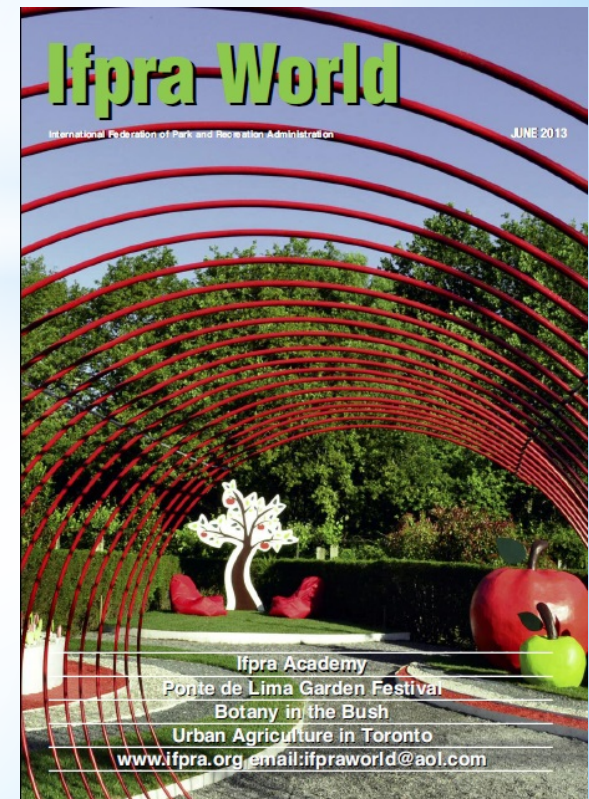


## Success with:

- Networking and knowledge exchange
- Triennial World Congress
- Regional conferences, technical tours
- Benchmarking
- Quarterly magazine *Ifpra World*

## Challenged by:

- Overlap with sister organisations such as ICUN WLO, IUPGSA, Europarc
- Limited membership range and decline





## Response 2012-13:

Ifpra Executive and World Commission: "Ifpra to take a lead role in enhancing the worldwide network on urban parks and recreation"

- Ifpra Academy professional certification
- Science Task Force Benefits of Urban Parks meta study
- Strategic Review



GALK Conference, Hamburg

# Strategic Review

Engaged Parks for Life (International Urban Parks and Green Space Alliance), a coalition of park and recreation national associations

➤ Business Excellence style Peer Review



Ifpra and Parks For Life, London

# Strategic Review Conclusion

➤ Need for a new-model, inclusive, sustainable world organisation to provide a united voice to the urban park and recreation sector

- Agencies
- Associations
- NGOs
- Universities
- Community groups
- Businesses
- Professionals
- All other interested individuals



➤ Potential to grow to the urban equivalent of IUCN



# World Urban Parks Task Force

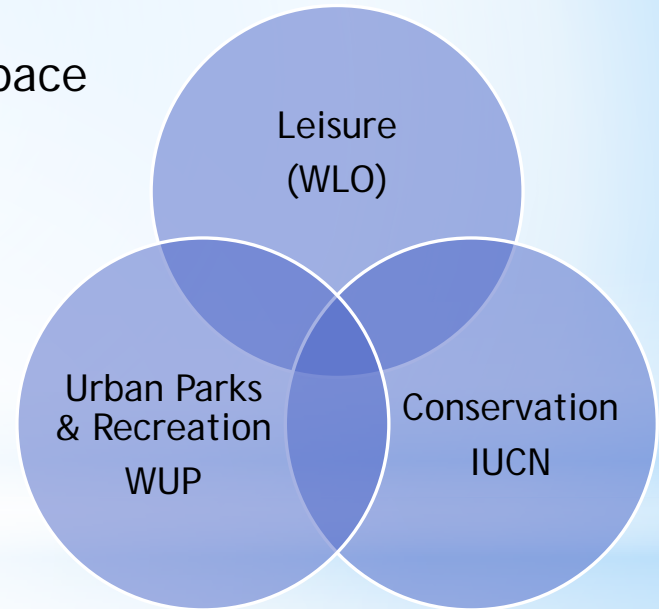
Strategy Group and Reference Group to determine:

1. *Need, scope/niche*

Strong need for a world urban parks, open space and recreation organisation.

70% of mankind projected to live in urban areas by 2050.

2. *Financial viability and member interest*  
Viable



# World Urban Parks Task Force

## 3. *Organisation name*

*World Urban Parks*

## 4. *Country of registration*

Washington DC, Melbourne,  
Brussels, Wellington

## 5. *Implementation process*

Ifpra's General Assembly to vote on adoption of  
World Urban Parks' constitution in December 2014

- First directors appointed to board
- Registered as a non-profit (and charitable) organisation.
- Commence April 2015



Kuala Lumpur

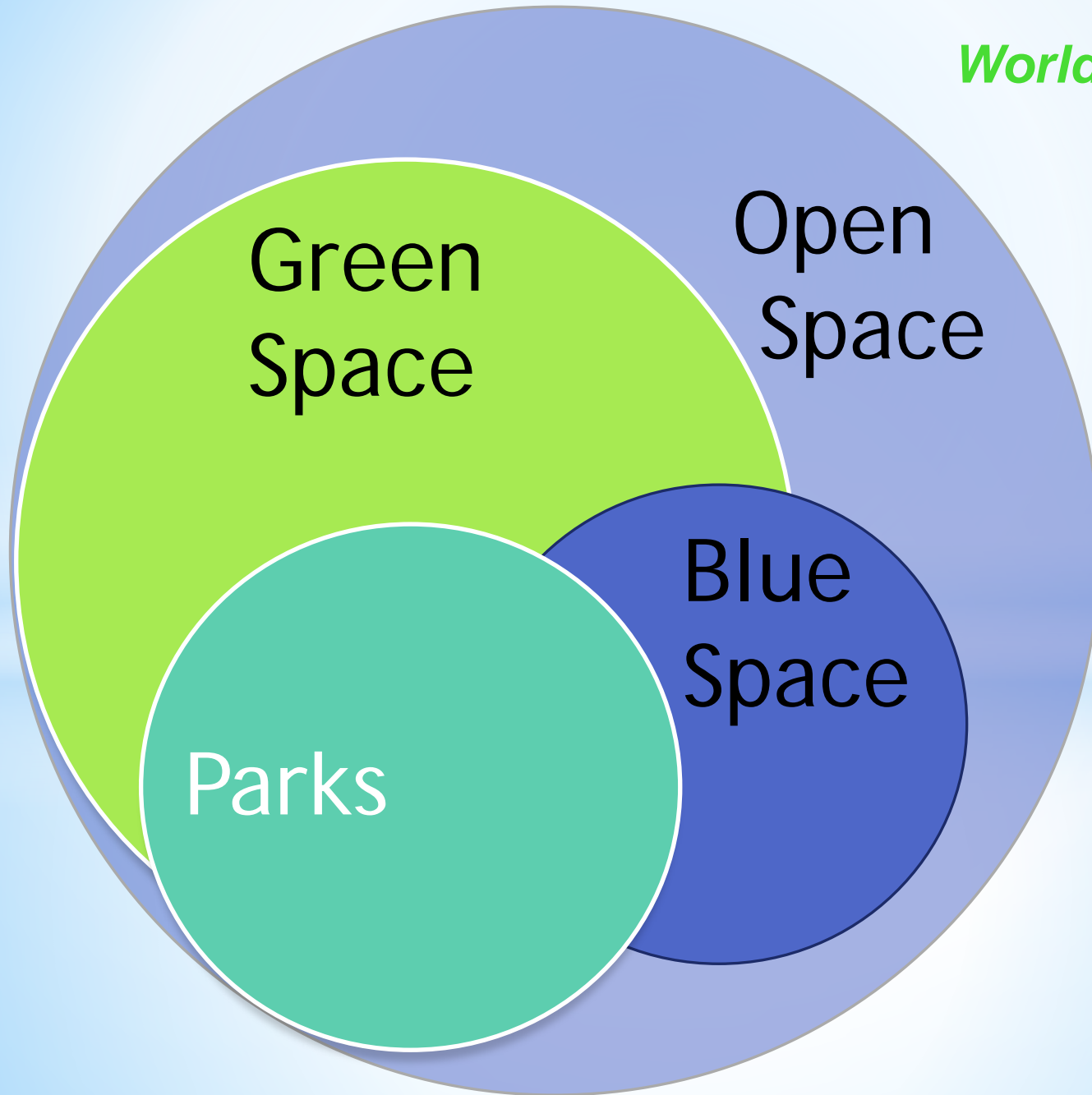


# ***World Urban Parks*** the 'go to'

organisation dedicated to city liveability and a sustainable environment through urban parks, open space and recreation



## *World Urban Parks*

























Sokolniki Park, Moscow



Centennial Memorial Park, Sydney





Highline Park, New York





Copenhagen



Flatbush new town, Auckland



**Legend**

- Walks
- Cycle Routes
- Railways
- GiGL OpenSpace
- Woodland
- Water

Private Gardens

Not Many

Many



**Tube Lines**

- Bakerloo
- Central
- Circle
- District
- DLR
- Hammersmith & City
- Jubilee
- Metropolitan
- Northern
- Picadilly
- Victoria

\*Officially a Notional Park  
 Map displays GiGL data 2014  
 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2014







## ***World Urban Parks Vision:***

*“A World where people value and have easy access to quality urban parks, open space and recreation”*

By 2050, 70% of the world's population will be living in towns and cities.  
(WHO)





## ***World Urban Parks Mission:***

*"To promote and support the provision, effective management and use of urban parks, open space and recreation world-wide as an integral contribution to healthy communities connected to the natural world"*

# Four Goals

## A. Park Networks





# Goals

## B. Park, Open Space and Recreation Benefits

Q1. What are the health values of parks and green spaces?



Paul Allison 2013

# Goals

## C. People Networks





# Goals

## D. Global Voice



## Benefits of Membership - *World Urban Parks*

### World Community:

1. Advocacy for equitable access to urban parks and recreation:
  - Liveable communities
  - Green cities
  - Member policy and campaign support





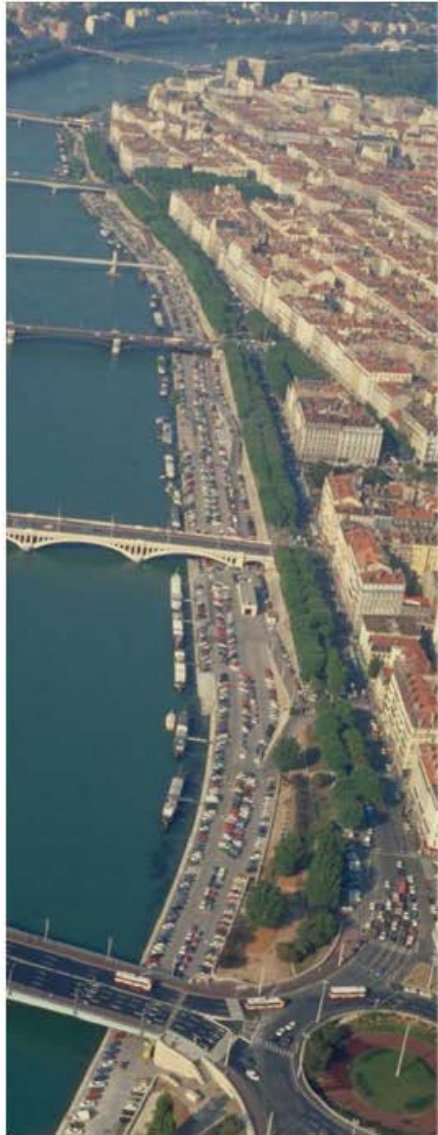


City of Lyon receiving a  
Gold Livcom award

[www.livcomawards.com](http://www.livcomawards.com)

## Sharing public space in urban setting

[BEFORE]



[NOW]



[BEFORE]



[NOW]







Rhone, Lyon



4

FORO URBANO DE PAISAJE  
LANDSCAPE URBAN FORUM  
PAISAIAREN HIRI FOROA  
VITORIA-GASTEIZ 2012



Vitoria-Gasteiz European Green Capital 2012  
environmentally friendly urban living









Green Roofs, Tivoli Congress Centre, Copenhagen, European Green Capital 2014



## Benefits of Membership

### World Community:

2. Research demonstrating the community health and environmental, social and economic benefits derived from urban parks

Ifpra Benefits of Urban Parks Meta-Study (Konijnendijk et al, 2012)	
Increased physical activity	Strong Evidence
Reduced obesity	Medium-Strong Evidence
Reduced stress	Medium Evidence
Mental health	Medium Evidence
Psychological wellbeing	Weak-Medium Evidence
Reduced noise and cooling	Weak-Medium Evidence

# PARK PRESCRIPTIONS

Profiles and Resources for Good  
Health from the Great Outdoors

Rx

MEDICAL CENTER



**INSTITUTE**  
AT THE GOLDEN GATE

INSTITUTE AT THE GOLDEN GATE | GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVANCY



## Benefits of Membership

### World Community:

3. Strategic international 'think-tank' to advance the cause of urban parks
4. Collaboration with sister global bodies (such as IUCN, WLO) and sectors (such as health)

### Organisation Members:

1. Advocacy and support on common causes and issues



## Organisation Members:

2. Facilitate international networking, project collaboration, study tours, staff exchange, and consultancy



Stadtpark, Hamburg



## Organisation Members:

3. Access to the latest data and information on urban park issues through conferences, studies, Knowledge Hub

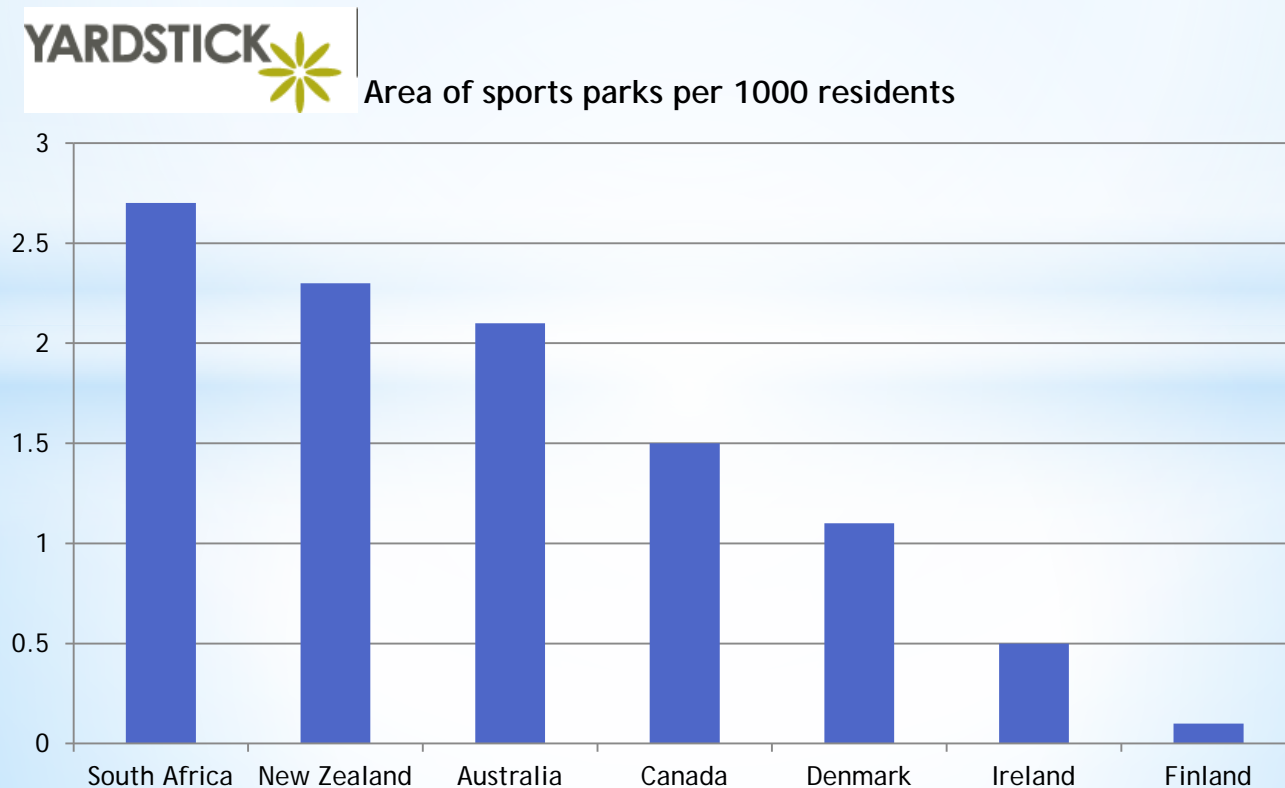


Malaysia Urban Green Space & Ifpra Asia Pacific Conference, Penang

# Benefits of Membership

## Organisation Members:

4. Set international standards, provide benchmarking services and awards

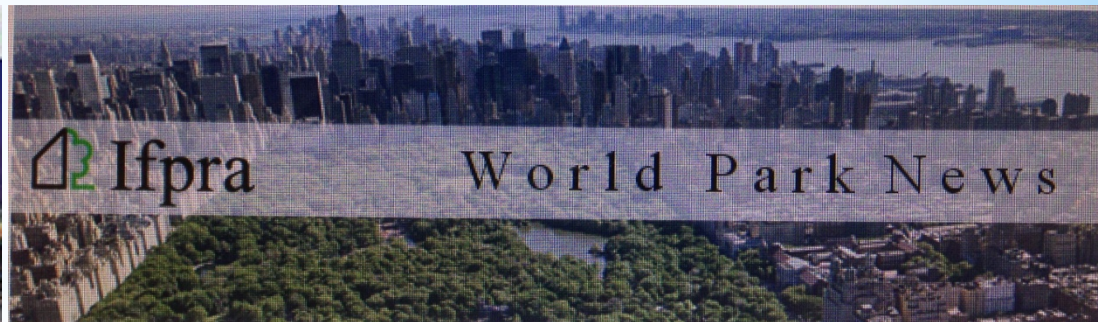
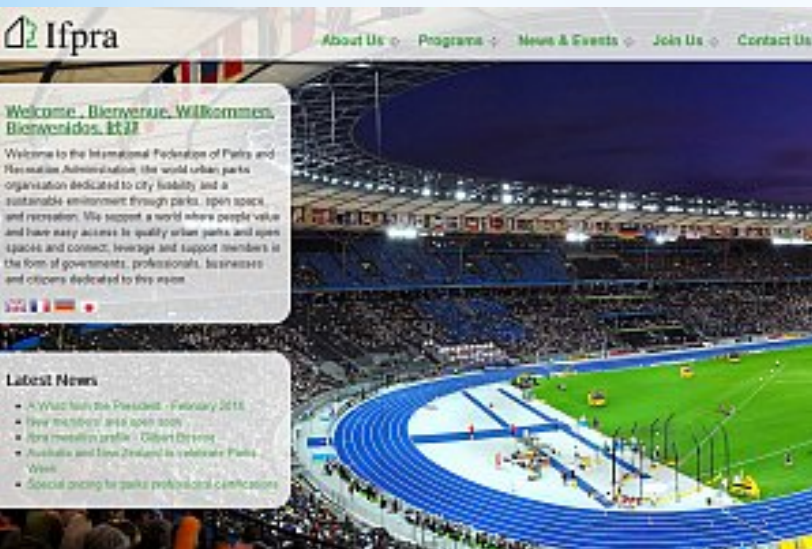




# Benefits of Membership

## Organisation Members:

### 5. Regular translatable e-communication



# Benefits of Membership

## Organisation Members:

6. Coordinated international programs, such as “World Parks Day” or “Parks Week”
7. Strengthening national associations: brokering international speakers and conference status, leveraging services, formation of new national associations
8. Endorsement of quality services and products





# Benefits of Membership

## Individual Members:

1. Specialized education and training
2. International professional certification
  - Ifpra Academy
3. Committee and project roles
4. Regional programs



There is no doubt that a re-invigorated World Urban Parks Organization can play an important role which will contribute to improve the quality of life of people all over the world.

Gil Penalosa

